

MEMO

DATE: October 10, 2019

SUBJECT: Libya Weekly Update

Below is a summary of the latest top headlines of the week surrounding the news in Libya. Key highlights include:

- The Government of National Accord forces continue to be successful neutralizing threats from General Haftar forces and continue to go on the offensive.
- Foreign actors continue to expand activity in Libya. Russia has sent mercenaries to the fight through the Wagner Group, a shady private military contractor with connections to Putin.
- The United States continues to be absent from efforts to foster peace and democracy in Libya by not limiting its engagement and sending mixed signals. If the US becomes involved in a political peace process the violence, economic and humanitarian crises can be resolved.

Libya Observer (10/9): [Libyan Army downs warplane for Haftar's forces in southern Tripoli](#)

- GNA forces successfully shut down General Haftar's warplanes near Libya.
- Volcano of Rage Operations, run by Libya's GNA, also reported they have repelled attacks by Russian mercenaries from the Wagner Group.

London Times (10/4): [Airstrike kills 'Kremlin mercenaries' backing Libyan strongman Khalifa Haftar](#)

- Dozens of Russian mercenaries were killed on the ground in Libya.
- The mercenaries, fighting for General Haftar, were employed by the Wagner Group, a private military contractor linked to wealthy Russian businessmen connected to President Putin.

Washington Post (10/3): [The United States is missing in action in Libya](#)

- By not actively engaging in the Libyan conflict, the United States, like it or not, is missing out on the best chance to create stability and democracy in Libya.
- The Trump administration has sent mixed signals on the conflict, while both State and Defense Departments have consistently supported the GNA.
- The United States has the best opportunity to stop Arab nations and Russia to stop feeding Haftar's operations, which now includes Russian mercenaries.

Reuters (10/8): [Libyan oil firm unable to pay salaries at eastern unit with parallel board](#)

- Libyan state oil firm NOC is unable to pay eastern Libyan salaries due to actions taken by General Haftar.
- The NOC, which oversees oil operations in Libya, called the illegitimate body created by Haftar, called Brega, as a board set up to create chaos and divide the country.
- The UN mission in Libya expressed its concerns over the attempt to create a parallel authority to divide the National Oil Company's operations.

Daily Maverick (10/8): [Libya's war becomes a tech battleground](#)

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- The ongoing conflict in Libya is unfolding into a technological proxy war, with outside influences providing advanced military technology.
- Foreign backers, like the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Russia and France, are providing diplomatic support, military equipment, mercenaries and military personnel, and direct military action.
- The war has led to over 1,000 fighting deaths and thousands wounded.

Reuters (10/9): [Libya's oil revenue at \\$16 bln in first 9 months - central bank](#)

- Libya's oil revenues earned roughly \$16 billion (USD) in the first nine months of the year.
- The Government of National Accord has allocated \$1.5 billion Libyan Dinars to maintain oil production in 2019-2020.

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